



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Thomas Jefferson, Inc.

TECHNICAL SERVICE COMPANY
2938 WATERLICK ROAD
LYNCHBURG, VA 24502
434-237-2044

June 18, 2003

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

File: FCC Dockets 96-86 and 02-55

Subject: A national disgrace and call to action.

Dear President Bush,

I would like to bring to your attention a desperate national need. This matter is of such a nature that it should be of concern to your office.

For a variety of reasons, the local government public safety and public service radio market place has/is evolving to a monopolistic, uncontrolled situation. The key to this market control is that the infrastructure is all vendor proprietary hardware and software and if nothing is done will remain so.

Think of this! If one travels the interstate system starting in North Delaware, south to the North Carolina line and west to the West Virginia line, it is sole source one vendor, with a few small exceptions where it is sole source to the other vendor. In North Carolina, a vendor proprietary sole source local system state voice network has been built upon a large group of proprietary vendor equipment.

In the industry, the term interoperable was being promoted by The Association of Public Safety Communications Officers and Advisors (APCO) and others, which in the real world definition is monopolistic and uncontrolled because of the proprietary vendor equipment. There is only interconnectivity at audio level.

Another sad tale is the procurement of public safety systems which openly violate the various state laws by going through a warped procurement process without a Registered Professional Engineer. The processes are being warped such that there is more and more only one bidder.

Some vivid examples are:

Thomas Jefferson, Inc.
Technical Service Company
Lynchburg, VA

- The University of Virginia, with the help of the State Attorney General, who by his inaction has proved that he is inappropriate to hold public office.
- The State of Delaware.
- The City of Baltimore.
- The State of Michigan and now after the fact an independent quality control firm for Michigan is listed as a business partner with the vendor for the State of New York (currently being evaluated).
- The whole Richmond, VA metro area.
- Fairfax County, VA.
- Montgomery County, Maryland, which hired as a consultant a vendor who has a business relationship to the supplier as their independent consultant.

The public safety community in some areas does not appear to conduct its business at the same level as it expects to be regarded or up to the expectations we place on our children.

The national Homeland Security need is not being met when radios from Connecticut, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Florida cannot be pooled and work together as a common resource to serve the nation (in case of an event, they can only be patched).

Why can't public safety have similar service as the public has with nationwide cellular phones? This will never happen when the vendors control the networks, the standards process, the procurement process, and the regulators. Just look at the prejudice and discrimination that the FCC has demonstrated in its leadership appointments in Docket 96-86 [NCC Committee]. Virtually all leadership chairs are dedicated Motorola customers with one token Steering Committee chair, there is no Kenwood, Bendix, King, Thales, Datron, or Daniels representation. APCO has some chairs in name only, such as a national director who didn't even attend any meetings other than the first one to sign on.

There is a corrective solution available but it is time critical for your corrective action.

The frequencies and infrastructure should be an overlay to the cellular network and managed by a common carrier structure. Thus utilizing the in place cellular sites and national computer systems and separating vendor suppliers from infrastructure and network.

I call upon you to "see to it" that the yet to be released 700MHz spectrum be restructured, not a feeding frenzy to propagate an uncontrolled monopoly, but rather to be an open managed network in the national interest

Contrary to what APCO is promoting, networks are dynamic and must be managed and cannot evolve through static standards. IN particular when even the practical working static standard do not exist.

Speaking about a national risk and threat, most all of these systems are controlled and tied back to a network control center. This common vital point for the nations safety is not in the control of a regulated body or the military. Rather, it is in the control and hands of an uncontrolled entity.

If that should free enterprise business should falter or if sold to a foreign organization where does that leave Homeland Security? Out to lunch I would guess.

Current public radio subscriber units in place cost orders of magnitude above comparable cellular and PCS radios. The only reason that the vendors can inflate the prices above what local governments can afford is because of the proprietary infrastructure controlled by them.

In the same manner that Saddam Hussein and other Dictators hold nations hostage, the radio vendors are holding local governments and Homeland Security hostage. The rest of the world has access to TETRA, yet the vendors mock your office by depriving this nation of that technology.

I suggest that you look to organizations that have national experience in network management. One of the most likely candidates would be AT&T.

You need to speak on it and take a leadership role before FCC Docket 96-86 releases the 700MHz spectrum band or Docket 02-55 rearranges the spectrum.

Your attention is needed now.

Sincerely,



Thomas Jefferson, Inc.

cc: Senator John McCain
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
241 Russell Senate Ofc. Bldg.
United States Senate
Washington D.C., Washington DC 20510